

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 41

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to propose amendments to Article III of the Constitution of Tennessee, to provide for popular election of the secretary of state.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that a majority of all the members of each house concurring, as shown by the yeas and nays entered on their journals, that it is proposed:

That Article III of the Constitution of Tennessee be amended by deleting Section 17 and substituting instead the following:

**Section 17.**

A secretary of state shall be popularly elected by the qualified voters of the state and shall hold office for a term of four (4) years and until a successor is elected and qualified. The secretary of state shall be at least thirty (30) years of age, shall be a citizen of the United States, and shall have been a citizen of this state for a period of at least five (5) years immediately preceding the election. A person is eligible to succeed in office as secretary of state for additional four-year terms, provided that a person is not eligible for election to more than two (2) terms consecutively, including an election to a partial term. The secretary of state shall keep a fair register of all the official acts and proceedings of the governor and shall, when required, lay the same, and all papers, minutes, and vouchers relative thereto, before the general assembly. The secretary of state shall perform such other duties as the general assembly shall prescribe by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon ratification of the amendments proposed herein at the 2026 November general election, popular elections for secretary of state shall be held at the 2030 November general election and every four years thereafter; provided, however, until the 2030 November general election, the General Assembly shall retain authority to elect the secretary of state by joint vote of both houses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the foregoing be referred to the One Hundred Thirteenth General Assembly and that this resolution proposing such amendments be published by the secretary of state in accordance with Article XI, Section 3 of the Constitution of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerk of the house of representatives is directed to deliver a copy of this resolution to the secretary of state.